

REMARKS

Claims 27-32 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 27, 29, 31, and 32 are independent claims.

In view of the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 27-32 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,617,798. Attached hereto is a timely filed Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 27-32.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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